



AAC Publications

Falls on Rock (16), Inadequate Protection (3), Inadequate Belays (4), Rappel/Lowering Errors (2), Falling Rock (1)

New York, Mohonk Preserve, Shawanunks

There were 17 reports from the Gunks in 2013. There were no fatalities, but there were seven serious injuries, along with 10 sprains/strains and other minor injuries. In one case, a spontaneous shoulder dislocation caused the climber to fall.

Fourteen of the incidents happened to lead climbers; there was one rappel error (no knot in rope ends) and one lowering error (protection that rope was threaded through came out) resulting in falls. The rockfall injury occurred when a climber dislodged a rock that struck a climber at the bottom of the cliffs. He was not wearing a helmet, but luckily was only hit slightly in his shoulder. The person who reported this said that he and his partner were the only ones wearing helmets at the base of the climbing area.

The average age of the climbers involved was 38, and the average degree of difficulty of the routes was 5.5. Over half the victims were 35 and above and were experienced. (Source: From reports submitted by Mohonk Preserve and Robert Aspinwall, who observed the rockfall incident.)

Images

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